

5/6

THE
Line of Righteousness
AND
J U S T I C E
Stretched forth over All
M E R C H A N T S, &c.

AND

An Exhortation to all Friends and People what-
soever, who are **Merchants, Tradesmen, Husbandmen,**
or **Seamen**, who deal in Merchandise, trade in Buying and Selling
by Sea or Land, or deal in Husbandry, *That ye all do that which is
Just, Equal and Righteous in the Sight of God and Man one to
another, and to all Men; and that you Use Just Weights, and Just
Measures; and Speak and Do that which is True, Just and Right
in all things;* that so your Conversations, Lives, Practices and
Tongues may preach to all People, and answer the Good, Just
and Righteous Principle of God in them all; in which ye may
be serviceable unto God and to the Creation in your Genera-
tion, and a Blessing both to God and Man.

By George Fox.

*He that walketh in his Integrity is Just; and blessed shall be his Chil-
dren after him, Prov. 20. 7.
Unjust Weights and Unjust Measures, both these are Abomination
to the Lord, Ver. 10.*

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1934. H. undulata, and *lutea* (var.?)
in the same locality.

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ALL Friends every where, live in the Seed of God, which is the Righteousness it self; and inherits the Wisdom, and is the Wisdom it self, with which Wisdom ye may order, rule and govern all things which be under your Hands (which God hath given you) to his Glory: Govern and Order with his Wisdom all the Creatures that you have under you, and all Exchangings, Merchandizing, Husbandry; do what you do in the Wisdom of God, and with it, which is pure from above, and gentle, and easie to be entreated: VVith this VVisdom (which is not Earthly, Sensual, nor Devilish) you do Good unto all, and Hurt no one, nor your self; for it is Pure, and preserves Pure.

So this is the Word of the Lord God to you all, Keep all in the *Power of God*, over all the Unrighteous World, which *Power of God* was before it was; in which *Power of God* you will be preserved in Justice, in Truth, in Equal Ballance, and VWeights and Measures, in the Truth, Uprightnes and Honesty to all People. So all here in this are serviceable to God in their Generation, and to the Creation, and to God and it a Blessing. *Do Rightly*, that is the VVord of the Lord God to you all, whether ye be Tradef-men of what Calling, or Profession, or Sort soever, or Husbandmen: Do rightly

rightly, justly, truly, holily, equally to all people in all things ; and that is according to that of *God in every Man*, and the *Witnesse's of God*, the *Wisdom of God*, and the *Life of God in your selves* ; and there you are serviceable in your Generation, labouuring in the thing that is good, which doth not spoil, nor destroy, nor waste the *Creation upon the Lusts*.

And all Merchants whatsoever, Sea-men and Traffickers by Sea or Land, this is the *Word of the Lord God* to you all ; *Do Justly, speak truly to all People whatsoever* ; then are ye a Dread and a Terror to the Unjust : *WRong no Man, Over-reach no Man* (if it may be never so much to your Advantage) but be plain, righteous and holy ; in this are you serviceable to your own Nation and others, by your Change and Exchanging of things and Merchandise, and to the *Lord God* ye come to be a Blessing in the *Creation and Generation*. *Live in the Life of Truth*, and let the Truth speak in all things, and let Righteousness and Justice be acted, and Holiness in all things, without any Guile, Fraud or Deceit ; and so that is well-pleasing to God and Men, and according to that of God in every one : And this sheweth forth the Fruits of Believers, that are passed from Death to Life, from Death which came by Sin, the Original of which is the Devil. So being come from Death to Life, which goes over him ; over him, I say, who is the *Author of all Unrighteousness* : Now in the Truth and Righteousness you will all have Peace, Favour, and the Blessing of the Lord in all things, and that keepeth out the *covetous Mind*, and *covetous Desires* ; the Power and Life of God, that goes over the power of Death, which brought the Sin ; that which keepeth over this hath the Blessing and the Encrease of the Heavely Riches, and that shall not want the Creatures, nor any Good Thing from them the *Lord will not withhold*. So be Careful to do Good in all things to all People, whatsoever ; in the Fear of God serve him ; and be diligent, and not stubborn in any thing, but pliable in the Power of God, that keeps you over all the power of Unrighteousness, acting so in that, that ye may be a *Good Savour in all Nations, Islands and Places* where you come, in the Hearts of all people, doing truly & plainly, uprightly, faithfully, justly and honestly, according to the Light of Christ Jesus in every Man, that that you may witness all ; then will your *Words, Lives and Conversations* preach and manifest that ye serve God

God in the New Life ; and that ye have put off the Old-Man, and his Deeds, which are Unrighteous ; and that ye have put on the New Man, which is after God in Righteousness and Holiness, according to his Image.

Loathe Deceit and Unrighteousness, Hard-heartedness, Wronging, Cozening, Cheating or Unjust Dealing ; but live and reign in the *Righteous Life* and *Power of God* and *Wisdom* (that preses all the other down) to answere the good and just Principle in all People, and that will win people to deal with you ; doing Truth to all without respect to Persons, to High or Low whatsoever Young or Old, Rich or Poor ; and so here your *Lives* and *Words* will preach where-ever you come.

All Husband-men and Dealers about Husbandry whatsoever Cattle or Ground, to you all this is the *Word* of the Lord God ; do rightly, holily, justly honestly, plainly and truly to all Men and People whomsoever you have to deal withall, wrong not any in any case, though it be never so to your Advantage : Deny yourselves and live in the *Cross of Christ*, the *Power of God* ; for that destroyes Injustice ; and without Holiness none can ever see the Lord ; and out of Righteousness there is no true Peace : Therefore all of what sort soever, or what Calling soever, do justly (whether ye be Masters or Servants, Fathers or Mothers, Sons or Daughters) to one another ; and to all do that which is Just and Righteous, uprightly and holily, in that you will have Peace, and see God.

So in all Husbandry speak Truth, act Truth, doing justly and uprightly in all your Actions, in all your Practices, in all your *Words*, in all your Dealings, Buyings, Sellings, Changings and Commerce with People, let Truth be the Head, and practice it ; And in all your *Words* let Truth be spoken ; This brings Righteousness forth, and Deceit to the Judgment Bar. Wrong no man, nor covet, nor cheat, nor oppres, nor defraud any Man in any Case ; but keep your Dominion in the Truth, in Righteousness, Holiness and Equity, in the Power, and Light, and *Wisdom* of Christ : in this you answere the Light of Christ in every one, and are a Blessing to the Lord God, and to your Generation you are serviceable, and come to walk in the new Life, in which the righteous holy God is served, in which Righteousness ye have peace,

and in which Holinesse see God : For the Kingdom of God stands in Righteousnes, Peace and Joy in the holy Ghost.

So speak the Truth, whether Merchants or Trades Men, and all Sorts of People whatsoever in all your Occasions, and in all your Tradings, Dealings and Doings, speak the Truth, act in the Truth, and walk in the Truth ; and this brings Righteousnes forth; for it answereth the VVitnes of God in every one, which lets every one see all the Deeds and Actions they have done amiss, and VVords which they have spoken amiss : So the VVitnes of God within them ariseth a swift VVitnes against them, for their VVords which they have spoken amiss, and for their Actions which they have done amiss, and brings them to the Judgment Bar, and to Condemnation. Here Righteousnes goes forth, and here the sweet Savour to the Lord God begins to ascend, and Truth and Equity ariseth both to be acted and spoken.

So ye all Friends of what Calling soever, that dwell in the Power of God, and feel the Power of God, and the Light of Christ Jesus ; dwell in that, act in that, that ye may answer that of God in every one upon the Earth, with your Actions, and by your Conversations, and by your VVords, being right, just and true : This goes over the unjust, untrue, unholy and unrighteous in all the whole VVorld, and reacheth to the good and true Principle of God in all People, which tells them when they do not do equally, justly, righteously and holily : So that is the VVord of God to you all Friends, of what Calling soever ye be : Live in the Power of Truth, and VVisdom of God, to answer the just Principle of God in all People upon the Earth ; and so ye answering of it, thereby ye come to be as a City set upon a Hill, which is above that Mountain that is in the whole VVorld, that lies above the just Principle of God in every one there, which the Power of God goes over : So let your Lives preach, let your Light shine, that your VVorks may be seen, that your Father may be glorified, that your Fruits may be unto Holiness, and that your End may be everlasting Life. Dwell in the Power of the Lord God, and Light, and Life, with which ye may feel and see before the Unrighteousnes was ; in this you will know the Everlasting Righteousnes brought forth, which answereth the righteous Principle of God in every one, to which they must come down, to lead them and guide them, to teach them

them to speak and act Truth, justly, righteously and holily, and that hath the Dominion, which doth justly, holily and righteously speak, act and think ; and this hath the Praise of God ; and they who do so, come to answer what God requires, to love Mercy, do justly, and to walk humbly with God. And this is more then all the Talkers of Justice, Righteousness and Holiness, whose Life denyes what their Tongues profess and talk of, by that God and Christ is dishonoured : So these are no good Example, neither serviceable in their Generation nor Creation, nor any, but them who live in the Power of God, and in his VVisdom, in which they have the Righteousness, Peace, Truth, Holiness, Justice and Equity : This is comely and favourable both to God and Man.

And all of what Trade or Calling soever, keep out of Debts, owe to no man any thing but Love ; go not beyond your Estate, lest you bring your selves to Trouble and Cumber and a Snare ; keep low and down in all things you act ; for a Man that would be great, and goes beyond his Estate, lifts himself up, runs into Debts, and lives highly of other Mens Means, he is a VVaster of other Mens, and a Destroyer, he is not serviceable to the Creation, but a Destroyer of the Creation and Creatures, and cumbreth himself, and troubleth others, and is lifted up, who would appear to be some body, but being from the honest, the just and good, falls into the Shame : Therefore dwell every one of you under your own Vine (that know Redemption from the Earth) and seek not to be great, but in that ; and dwell in the Truth, Justice, Righteousnes and Holines ; and there is the Blessing enlarged.

And no one (of what Calling soever) run into Debt, Uury and Exaction ; for many People have been wronged thereby ; they that have taken of them, who by it have appeared great, and lived above what they were, and so would seem to be : Therefore be true and honest, holy and righteous, every one in that which ye have ; Owe to none any thing but Love, and in that ye will feel the Blessing, and come to be serviceable in the Creation, serving one another in Love, and not in Oppression or Taxation, and that keeps all down in the Power, VVisdom and Life of God, and bends all Minds to strive for one anothers good, and to help one another in that which is good, just and righteous, and serve one another in that ; in that you live in the Life, and in the Seed, the Pow-

er and Righteousness that is everlasting, which is of God and his VVisdom, through which ye come to answer the good, just and holy Principle of God in every one upon the Earth, in which Power ye have Dominion, in which ye come to live the Life that is well-pleasing to God, and Life which shall stand when the World is ended; And in this Life, Power and VVisdom of God, that is endless, you are a Terror to all that be in the VVisdom below, you are a Terror to all that be in the unrighteous Actions and VVords; and you are a Terror to all that be in the unjust and unequal Doings, and all the Defrauders, Cozeners, Cheaters, Over-reachers, Lyers and wrong Dealers: In the Power of God and his Life, in which ye have Justice, ye have Truth, ye have Equity, ye have Righteousness, and it cometh to be in you as natural; your Words, your Lives, your Conversations, your Presence and your Practices, both judge and preach; and you are a Terror to all Men in the just Life and Everlasting Righteousness, Christ Jesus, living in him, and in his Wisdom, and walking in him, and speaking the Truth as it is in him in all things; your Lives and your Words are a Terror to all that speak not Truth in your Dealings, and to all that act not truly and Righteously in their Doings; your Lives do judge them, and are a Judge to them; and through your Constancy, Faithfulness and Life, which is everlasting, you bring many to Amendment: For both Life, Actions, Words and Conversation preach (all these preach to the unrighteous World) being in the Everlasting Righteousness, which over the World hath Dominion; through which Life, Power, Seed of God and Wisdom, you reach and answer the good and just Principle of God in every one; and it you will make at last to confess you, though they may go on in the contrary for a Time.

So in that Power, Wisdom, and Dominion, and Strength that gives you Dominion over all, and to answer that of God in all, in the Love and Power of the Lord Jesus Christ preserve and keep you all in his Wisdom, Life, Seed and Dominion, that to him you may be a Blessing, and a good Savour in the Hearts of all People; and let all your Actions and Words be one with the VVitness of God in all People, Amen.

The VVicked and Unrighteous owe Envy and Hatred, and with that they pay their Debt; but the Righteous Just and Harmless, who

who owe nothing to any Man but Love, with that they pay their Debt: But Drunkards, Adulterers, Swearers, Rioters, who eat and drink, and rise up to Play, and live in Pleasures wantonly upon the Earth; Fighters, Quarrellers, Envious, Malitious, Unjust, Unrighteous; all such Actions and Practice judge out of the Power of God, and out of his Kingdom.

A LL Friends every where, that be Shop-keepers or Merchants, or Factors, or any other Trades, keep low in the Power of God, and do not go into things beyond your Capacity, nor reach after things more then ye can justly perform, and answer all men: But all in your Places be just and true, that ye may answer all men within and without, with Truth and Justice in your Returns, that you may keep your Words; so say, and so do, which is the Royal Law of Liberty in all your Tradings, else you are a Dishonour to *Christianity*. Therefore fore-see your Businell, that what you do, and what you say, you may perform, that you may not break your Words and Promises; for if you do, ye go to Loss, neither are ye Masters of what ye take in hand; for a Master should be a top of things, and be in that which can command things.

And none to be negligent in their Businell; but give an Account by Words or Writings, how things are with them, when others write to them; so that none may wrong one another in these outward things, nor oppres one another; but be serviceable one to another, keeping their Words (their going into things beyond their Ability makes them break their Words) keeping within their Compass with that which they may answer, lest any be listed up; For it is a bad thing to be listed up, and

to make a Noise and a Shew for a time with other Peoples Goods, and cannot keep their Word, their Promise, their Day ; such may be lifted up for a time, and Break, and Fall, and go out as a Stink, and bring a great Dishonour to Christ and true *Christians* : And therefore keeping your Word, your Day, and keeping your just Measure, your just Weight, that keeps down the Oppression ; And by that just Measure and Weight, and your Word and Day, by the Power of God, and his Spirit in your own Hearts, and there the Blessing is doubled, there you come to be Rich, and you are a good Savour to God, and in the Hearts of all People.

So every one strive to be Rich in the Life, and Kingdom and Things of the World that hath no End ; For he that covets to be rich in the things of this World, falls into many Snares and hurtful Lusts. And therefore let him that buyes, or sells, or possesses, or uses this World, be as if he did not ; Let them be Masters over the world in the Power and Spirit of God, and let them know that to owe no man nothing but Love, yet serve God in Truth and one another in their Generation.

For Friends, if you Be not faithful in the Outward Treasure, Outward Mammon, who will trust you with the True Treasure ? or who can believe that ye have the True Treasure, but that you speak by hear-say of it ? So I say to you all, See that you are faithful in this outward Mammon, this outward Treasure of the things of this Life, of this World, faithful to your Word, faithful to your Dayes, faithful to your Promises in all your Tradings, Traffickings, Bargainings, true, and just, and righteous and honest in these outward Treasures or Mammon, concerning the things of this World, of this Life, of these outward Riches ; just and faithful, true and honest

nest Men and Women in these outward things: I say, as Christ saith, who will trust you with the true and heavenly Treasure, if not as before? Therefore I say, to be Faithful in these Outwards, that shews an honest Man and honest Woman, faithful in all your Dealings and Practices between Man and Man, and Woman and Woman, that sheweth an honest Heart, and a faithful Man and Woman in outward things; that answers the faithful Principle in all people. So all Men and Women to be faithful in these outward things one to another, that shews the good Heart to receive the true Treasure, that you may be faithful in it to God, who have been faithful in their outward Treasure or Mammon one to another. So let every ones Conversation be without Covetousness, let not that be once named among Saints; and do to all men as you would have them do to you, that is the Law and the Prophets, if not judged by them; For the Kingdom stands in Righteousness, [mark, stands in it] and in Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost. [mark, in it.]

Postscript.

Holiness becomes the House of God; whosoever acts Unholily, it is that doth dishonour his House, and doth not become it: Whosoever acts Unfaithfully in this Outward Treasure or Mammon, or in the True Treasure to God, is not justified in the Sight of God nor Man; for they are justified by Faith, through Faithfulness both of God and Man; For whosoever doth Righteousness is of God, and he that doth not Righteousness is not of God.

God: For God loveth the Righteous, and delighteth in them; but not in them that do Unrighteousness: for in the Righteousness they have Peace; but out of Righteousness People have Trouble. So all God's People, his Children, his Saints must be holy, as he is holy; and therefore do that which is holy and just in all your Lives & Conversations; and whatsoever ye do, let it be done to the Praise and Glory of God: [mark that] have God's Praise and Glory in your Eye, in all your Speakings and Doings; then you will be preserved to his Glory, and then you will honour him; and they that honour him, he will honour, and beautifie, and cloath with the fine Linnen, the Righteousness of Christ, that men may not see your Nakedness: For God will have a holy People, to serve him in Holiness; a true People, to serve him in Truth, and in his Spirit, and in his new and living Way, above all the dead Wayes that are come by Sin, and Unrighteousness, and Transgression of his Spirit, & Power, and Command. So all you that know his Power and Spirit, live in it, that you may Glorifie God in all your Lives, and Conversations and Words, that you may answer that of God in all, that you may Glorifie God in your Bodies, Souls and Spirits, which are his, who hath made them, and gives them to you for that End; To whom be Glory and Honour forever, who created all for his Glory and for his Honour. So the Lord God Almighty keep and preserve you faithful in all things to his Glory and Honor forever.

G. F.

Let this be read in all the Men and VVomen's Meetings.

THE END.

